IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information device, comprising:

~~a first memory~~ means for storing an encrypted ~~and distributed~~ content ~~which can be used on condition that~~ whose use requires a license ~~is held~~;

~~a second memory~~ means for storing the license;

~~a third memory~~ means for storing user data including (a) grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the information device and whose information devices are configured ~~which intend~~ to [[use]] decrypt the encrypted content, ~~and~~ (b) key information for decrypting the encrypted content ~~decryption~~ and which is commonly provided to [[each]] a device group configured to include the plurality of the information devices, and (c) ~~together with~~ a group identifier provided to [[each]] the device group, wherein the means for storing the user data stores the grouped device identification information and the key information together with the group identifier; and

~~a replay~~ means for performing a process of decrypting the encrypted content, ~~stored in the first memory means~~ based on the ~~basis of~~ license and the user data ~~stored information in the second memory means and the third memory means to replay the content~~.

2. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 1, wherein

the ~~first memory~~ means for storing the content associates license identification information for identifying the license ~~enabling the use of the content with~~ to the encrypted content ~~to store the license identification information~~, and

the means for storing the license stores the license, which ~~stored in the second memory means~~ includes the license identification information and the grouped device identification information.

3. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 2, wherein

the ~~replay~~ means for performing reads out the license identification information associated ~~with a~~ to the encrypted content, which is requested to be replayed from the ~~first memory~~ means for storing the content,

the ~~replay~~ means for performing reads out the grouped device identification information, which is associated with the read license identification information from the ~~second memory~~ means for storing the license,

the ~~replay~~ means for performing reads out the key information associated with the read grouped device identification information, and

the ~~replay~~ means for performing decrypts the encrypted content stored in the ~~first memory~~ means for storing the content, using ~~through the use of~~ the read key information ~~to output the content~~.

4. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a group registration request~~ means for requesting an information server to register [[a]] the device group ~~to which the information device belongs~~ in the information server.

5. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 4, further comprising:

~~a service registration request~~ means for requesting the information server to register the information device as an object configured to be serviced, and to submit the grouped device identification information and the key information to the information device.

6. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 4, further comprising:

~~a fourth memory~~ means for storing unique device identification information for identifying the information device from other information devices similar to the information device ~~others~~; and

~~a device registration request~~ means for requesting the information server to register in the information server the unique device identification information stored in the ~~fourth memory~~ means for storing the unique device identification information ~~in the information server~~.

7. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 6, further comprising:

~~a device identification information production~~ means for producing the unique device identification information ~~which is supposed to be stored in the fourth memory means~~.

8. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 6, further comprising:

~~a device registration deletion request~~ means for requesting the information server to delete the ~~registration of the~~ registered unique device identification information ~~stored in the fourth memory means from~~ in the information server.

9. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing the user data stores the group identifier, which is provided to the device group, which ~~one device group~~ is ~~defined as~~ a group ~~including~~ that includes a plurality of information devices owned by one user.

10. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 1, wherein

the means for storing the user data stores the key information, which corresponds to a device node key allocated to [[a]] the device group, [[to]] which is ~~the information device belongs as~~ a device node in [[the]] a bottom layer among a plurality of node keys in a hierarchical tree structure, wherein each of the node keys is ~~which are~~ encrypted and ~~defined~~

~~corresponding~~ corresponds to ~~each~~ a different node in [[a]] the hierarchical tree structure, ~~branching~~ which branches off from [[the]] a top layer to the bottom layer, ~~and,~~

the means for storing the content stores the encrypted content, which is multiply encrypted ~~through the use of~~ by each node key of the plurality of the node keys on a path in the hierarchical tree structure from the device node key to a root key, ~~which is~~ the root key being a node key in the top layer [[in]] of the hierarchical tree structure, and

the ~~replay~~ means for performing sequentially decrypts [[the]] each node key ~~keys~~ on the path from the bottom layer to the top layer in the hierarchical tree structure, ~~through the use of~~ using the key information ~~as the device node key~~ to obtain the root key, and then decrypts the encrypted content ~~through the use of~~ by using the obtained root key.

11. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 10, wherein

the means for storing the content stores the encrypted content, which is encrypted by a content key ~~which~~ that is encrypted by the root key, and

the ~~replay~~ means for performing decrypts the content key by using the root key, and then decrypts the encrypted content ~~through the use of~~ using the decrypted content key.

12. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information device according to claim 1, wherein the means for storing the content stores the encrypted content, which includes at least one of [[is]] text data, still image data, moving image data, or voice data ~~or data including a combination thereof~~.

13. (Currently Amended) An information server ~~having a function of enabling~~ configured to enable an encrypted ~~and distributed~~ content to be used, the information server comprising:

~~a group registration processing~~ means for associating information about a device group to which an information device ~~intending~~ configured to ~~use a~~ decrypt the encrypted content belongs ~~with~~ and a group identifier and registering the information according to a group registration request from the information device, the device group configured to include a plurality of information devices; and

~~a service registration processing~~ means for registering the information device as an object configured to be serviced, according to a service registration request from the information device, for associating grouped device identification information ~~for grouping~~ that groups and identifies the ~~identifying a~~ plurality of the information devices, ~~in a device group to which the information device belongs~~ and key information for decrypting the encrypted content ~~decryption with~~ to the group identifier and for registering the grouped device identification information and the key information, and for providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to all information devices in the device group ~~to which the information device belongs~~.

14. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

~~a device registration management~~ means for extracting device identification information ~~for identifying each~~ that identifies the information device from a device

registration request from the information device, ~~and~~ for associating the device identification information with the group identifier, and for registering the device identification information according to the device registration request.

15. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information server according to claim 14, wherein ~~after the number of device identification information registered in one device group reaches a predetermined number,~~ the ~~device registration management~~ means for extracting refuses a device registration request from a new information device belonging to the device group, after a number of information devices that correspond to device identification information that is registered in the device group reaches a predetermined number.

16. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information server according to claim 14, wherein ~~according to a device registration deletion request from the information device,~~ the ~~device registration management~~ means for extracting deletes the device identification information, which is specified by [[the]] a device registration deletion request from the information device.

17. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information server according to claim 13, further comprising:

~~a license providing~~ means for providing a license specified by a license request from an information device of the plurality of the information devices to the information device ~~requesting~~ that requested the license and according to the license request; and

~~a charging~~ means for extracting the grouped device identification information from the license request to judge whether the extracted grouped device identification information is registered by the ~~service registration processing~~ means for registering ~~or not~~, and ~~depending upon the result,~~ for determining whether ~~or not~~ to charge for providing [[a]] the license from the ~~license providing~~ means for providing, depending upon the judgment.

18. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information server according to claim 13, wherein

the means for associating associates information about the [[one]] device group, which is ~~defined as~~ a group ~~including~~ that includes a plurality of information devices owned by one user.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing system, comprising:

an information server ~~having a function of enabling~~ configured to enable an encrypted ~~and distributed~~ content to be used; and

an information device configured as a client of the information server and to receive ~~receiving~~ a service from the information server through ~~communications~~ communication lines, wherein

the information server ~~comprising:~~ includes

~~a group registration processing~~ means for associating information about a device group to which [[an]] the information device, which is configured ~~intending~~ to ~~use a~~ decrypt the encrypted content, belongs ~~with~~ and a group identifier and registering the

information according to a group registration request from the information device, the device group configured to include a plurality of information devices; and

~~a service registration processing~~ means for registering the information device as an object configured to be serviced, according to a service registration request from the information device, for associating grouped device identification information ~~for grouping~~ that groups and identifies the ~~identifying a~~ plurality of the information devices, ~~in a device group to which the information device belongs~~ and key information for decrypting the encrypted content ~~decryption with~~ to the group identifier and for registering the grouped device identification information and the key information, and for providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to all information devices in the device group ~~to which the information device belongs~~, and

the information device ~~comprising:~~ includes

~~a first memory~~ means for storing [[a]] the encrypted content;

~~a second memory~~ means for storing a license;

~~a third memory~~ means for storing user data that includes the grouped device identification information and the key information, which are provided from the information server, and ~~together with~~ the group identifier, the means for storing the user data storing the grouped device identification information and the key information together with the group identifier; and

~~a replay~~ means for decrypting ~~and replaying~~ the encrypted content stored in the ~~first memory~~ means for storing the content, based on the ~~basis of stored information in the second memory means~~ license and the user data ~~third memory means~~.

20. (Currently Amended) An information processing method, ~~applied to an information processing system~~ comprising:

~~an information server having a function of enabling an encrypted and distributed content to be used and an information device as a client receiving a service from the information server, wherein in the information server, according to a group registration request from an information device which intends to use a content, information about a device group to which the information device belongs is associated with a group identifier and registered, and according to a service registration request from the information device, the information device is registered as an object to be serviced, and grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices in a device group to which the information device belongs and key information for content decryption are associated with the group identifier and registered, and the grouped device identification information and the key information are provided to all information devices in the device group to which the information device belongs, and in the information device,~~

storing [[a]] an encrypted content and a license in an information device; ~~are stored,~~

storing (a) [[the]] grouped device identification information that groups and identifies a plurality of information devices that includes the information device and whose information devices are configured to decrypt the encrypted content, ~~and the~~ (b) key information for decrypting the encrypted content and which is commonly provided to a device group that includes the plurality of the information devices, ~~provided from the information server are stored together with the~~ and (c) a group identifier provided to the device group, wherein the

grouped device identification information and the key information are stored together with the group identifier; [[,]] and

decrypting the encrypted content, based on ~~the basis of the contents of~~ the license, the grouped device identification information, and the key information~~, the stored content is decrypted to be replayed~~.

21-22. (Canceled).

23. (New) An information device, comprising:

a first memory configured to store an encrypted content whose use requires a license;

a second memory configured to store the license;

a third memory configured to store user data including (a) grouped device identification information for grouping and identifying a plurality of information devices that includes the information device, the information devices being configured to decrypt the encrypted content, (b) key information for decrypting the encrypted content and which is commonly provided to a device group configured to include the plurality of the information devices, and (c) a group identifier provided to the device group, wherein the third memory is further configured to store the grouped device identification information and the key information together with the group identifier; and

a processor configured to perform a process of decrypting the encrypted content, based on the license and the user data.

24. (New) An information server configured to enable an encrypted content to be used, the information server comprising:

a first processor configured to associate a group identifier and information about a device group to which an information device configured to decrypt the encrypted content belongs and to register the information according to a group registration request from the information device, the device group configured to include a plurality of information devices; and

a second processor configured to register the information device as an object configured to be serviced, according to a service registration request from the information device, to associate grouped device identification information that groups and identifies the plurality of information devices, and key information for decrypting the encrypted content to the group identifier and to register the grouped device identification information and the key information, and to provide the grouped device identification information and the key information to all information devices in the device group.

25. (New) An information processing method for an information server, the method comprising:

associating a group identifier and information about a device group that includes an information device configured to decrypt encrypted content, according to a group registration request from the information device, the device group configured to include a plurality of information devices;

registering the information, according to the group registration request from the information device;

registering the information device as an object configured to be serviced, according to a service registration request from the information device;

associating the group identifier with grouped device identification information that groups and identifies the plurality of the information devices, and key information for decrypting the encrypted content;

registering the grouped device identification information and the key information; and

providing the grouped device identification information and the key information to all information devices in the device group.